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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	[redacted] Polish Political and Economic Situation	DATE DISTR.	22 January 1957
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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

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3. Included [redacted] is such economic information as the availability of consumers' goods after the rise of Gomulka, slight wage increases and the completion of a new building for Radio Poland. It was also permissible to send mail sealed by the sender.

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4. In regard to the political situation under Gomulka [redacted] contains [redacted] opinions and information on anti-Semitism and popular attitudes.

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5. [redacted]

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Date Distributed: 20 December 1956

COUNTRY: Poland

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I. Military

1. [redacted]
6. [redacted] the Soviet troop movements during the Polish CP VIII Plenum ("October Revolution") which have already been widely reported.

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7. [redacted]
8. [redacted]
9. [redacted]
10. [redacted]
11. [redacted]
12. [redacted]

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II. Civilian

1. [redacted]
2. No increased arrests; in fact there have been many political and other types of prisoners released from prison in the last six months. No increase in restrictions in travel or document checks. No curfews.
3. During the "October Revolution" (last days of October and first several

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S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

-2-

days in November) there had been a rush on food stores which were rapidly bought out, but the regime made special offers to replenish stocks in order to pacify the people and present an appearance of normalcy.

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Modern foreign drugs are scarce.

Radios appear plentiful in shops. They are mostly of East German manufacture but there are also many Polish and Czechoslovak models available.

No recent changes on other goods; however in early October a "confidential" directive from the Council of Ministers was distributed to all state enterprises forbidding them to purchase any furniture and electrical equipment (radios, lamps, etc.) until 1 April 1957. the alleged official reason behind this was "economy" probably equally important was the regime's desire to have another means of avoiding inflation by having more items available for purchase by the populace.

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no rationing of goods except a recent ration on gasoline. State automobiles (private types) are allowed 15 liters daily; five liters per day are allowed for privately owned vehicles.

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the rationing was not too rigidly observed but yet there were long queues of autos at stations to get their daily ration.

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the special stores which had been available only to military officers and certain higher regime officials, have recently been made available to the public and consequently are not as well stocked with supplies of goods as they had been. Nevertheless, the existence of these stores and their unique system of organization is being kept up for the day when the regime wishes to revert to it or, in the event of war.

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Several months ago there were slight increases in wages throughout many state enterprises.

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Department heads received about 500 zlotys increase while maids and other workers received about 50 zlotys.

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letters being sent to foreign countries need not be presented unsealed at the Post Office as had once been necessary. A letter being sent out of the country can now be deposited at the post office, sealed by the sender.

6.

Radio Poland has just completed a new building on ulica Malczewskiego (Mokotow section) Warsaw, where the foreign broadcast section is already moving. The over-all chief of Radio Poland and several department heads are also moving their offices to this site. This building, has two stories below ground which will be used for shelter and are probably the location to which operations will be transferred during wartime.

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anti-typhus shots are given annually to all people in their places of employment.

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S-E-C-R-E-T

S-E-C-R-E-T

-3-

These shots are supposedly obligatory but many people avoided taking them

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10. [redacted] the present state of democratization and liberalization in Poland is about at an end. To solidify his position and program and to adhere to Soviet demands, Gomulka wishes to hold back the momentum of the "thaw" which is assuming dangerous proportions. Gomulka and some of his spokesmen have already addressed various segments of the population (intellectuals and workers) and have attempted to define and assert the limits of democratization. [redacted] the top level of the Party fears further democratization but cannot yet go back to the old way of Stalinism.

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Intellectuals expect no real improvement in democratic methods in the future and even the masses are "not so naive" as to believe that the present situation will be permitted indefinitely. The only general satisfaction which is enjoyed by all at the moment is the semblance of independence gained from the USSR.

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[redacted] anti-Semitism is strong. It is the semi-official policy since the VII Plenum of the Central Committee where the question was officially introduced by Zenon Nowak of the "Natolin" group which is supported by Khrushchev. [redacted] 80 percent of the Jews in Poland are dissatisfied and would like to get out of the country.

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[redacted] Stefan Staszewski, who forestalled the planned "Natolin coup d'etat" in October and who was the leader in engineering Gomulka into power, will have "to go" ("at least forego any high, conspicuous position") because he is a Jew. [redacted] in about 1952 Staszewski was a "snout-muzzler" [redacted] when he was the director of the press and publications department in the Central Committee.

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[redacted] on the subject of resistance [redacted] though most of the population was against Communism and against the regime (at least before Gomulka's return), there was nothing known [redacted] which may be called resistance. [redacted] the return of Gomulka was engineered by a behind-the-scenes organization which took in Party big-wigs, intellectuals, students, and workers. [redacted] this latter statement by citing some of the events which, since Gomulka's return, have been published overtly in Poland and in Western publications.

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11. [redacted] a Soviet unit [redacted] was moving out of the Praga section of Warsaw. [redacted] it was moving out of the country [redacted]

25X1

[redacted] dependents of Soviet military men attached to the Polish Army were also moving out of Warsaw proper.

12. through 15. [redacted]

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III. Intelligence Activities

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Next 3 Page(s) In Document Denied